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Italian Police Preparations for Possible Communist Demonstrations DATE DISTR. 25 February 1949

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SOURCE

ARMY

- Gesualdo Barletta, Chief of the Italian Ministry of Interior Intelligence is known to have stated that the Italian police are preparing for active Communist demonstrations in the event that Italy should adhere to the Atlattic Pact. Barletta did not exclude that, in addition to the usual manifestations, the Communists might go as far as a general strike. However, according to Barletta, the police are prepared and confident of keeping the situation in hand.
- According to another source, Giovanni Gronchi confirmed the above but stated that he did not believe that the Communists would resort to large scale manifestations or a general strike. According to Gronchi, it is now clear that the Communists fear the increasing hostility of a majority of the Italian people and are now striving "not to gain ground but to keep from losing further, or from losing ground so rapidly".

